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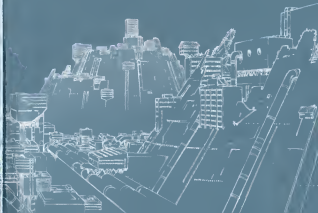
殻都市の夢

夢の殻都市

鬼頭莫宏

大田出版

Hallucination from the womb
Mahiro Kitoh



殻都市の蜃

Hallucination from the womb

鬼頭莫宏
Mahiro Kitoh

太田出版



KOTOMOKU
ILLUSTRATION BY MAHITO KITOH

DC BY EXCHANGEL

Hallucination from the womb
Mahiro Kitoh



太田出版

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Hallucination from the womb
Mahiro Kitoh

Hallucination from the Womb

*Kakutosh no yume**

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* The Japanese title literally means: "Dreams from Shell City"

CHAPTER 1

Birthday
Coffin





...BEING
HARRASSED.

I'M
GONE



ONE HOUR
AFTER THAT
PHONE CALL,
I SAW HER
BEFORE ME.

"PLEASE
HELP ME!"





WITH
WHAT SHE
HAD SAID
ON THE
PHONE.



I FOUND IT
HARD TO
RECOGNIZE
THOSE
PLAID
EYES.



...MADE IT
DIFFICULT
TO ESTIMATE
HER AGE.

HER POSE
SITTING POSTURE
THAT HAD EVEN
ME, A MALE,
FASCINATED.



SHE LOOKED TO
BE IN HER MID-
THIRTIES IN
REALITY,
HOWEVER, SHE
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN OLDER
THAN THAT.



SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN
BEAUTIFUL IN
HER YOUTH.

YET EVERYTHING
ON HER BODY WAS
PERFECTLY PRO-
PORTIONED.



PROBABLY
NOT EVEN
A T.

SHE WAS NOT
PARTICULARLY
TALL.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE
SEPARATION FROM
HIS WIFE 20 YEARS
AGO, THE MAN HAD
WITHDRAWN HIMSELF
TO THIS ESTATE,
BREAKING OFF ALL
CONTACT WITH THE
OUTSIDE WORLD.



HIS ALIBI
WAS ONCE A
SCIENTIST WHO
RESEARCHED
SEMI-CELL
CLONING



ALL THIS
SEEMED
BESIDES THE
POINT, DIDN'T
IT?

NO, IT DIDN'T.



APPARENTLY, HE
WAS LIVING ON
THE ROYALTIES
GENERATED BY
HIS PATENTS



...HAS BEEN
CONTAINING
CLONING OF
THE LAST
HUMANITY
-100%

MY
HUSBAND
...



100%

YOU ARE NOT
OFFICIALLY
DIVERSE,
CONDUCT?

IT WAS SAID THE
WOMAN HAD
BEEN LIVING
APART FROM
HER HUSBAND
FOR 20 YEARS

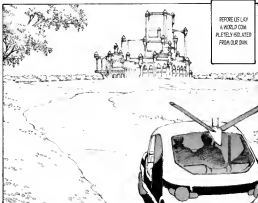


SURROUNDED BY WOODS
THE PROPERTY'S INTERIOR
WAS COVERED IN GRASS-
LANDS, AND AT ITS CENTER
STOOD THE MANSION
WHOSE CONSTRUCTION
RESEMBLED A FORTRESS.



THE MAN'S HOUSE
OR AS IT SHOULD
BE MORE ACCU-
RATELY CALLED
CASTLE, WAS
LOCATED OUTSIDE
OF SHELL CITY

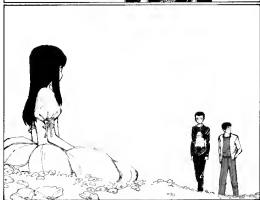
BEFORE US LAY
A WORLD COM-
PLETELY ISOLATED
FROM OUR OWN.



OVER-
THERE...



WHEN I
THINK OF
MY FUTURE...
NEXT...













THIS IS MY
HUSBAND.

THAT MAN
IS MY
HUSBAND.

PLEASE
FOLLOW OUR
INSTRUCTIONS
AND RETURN.

EXCUSE
ME,
MAY I?

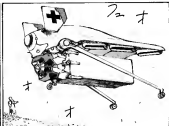












...AND I
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
FINISHED.

TWO
MORE...











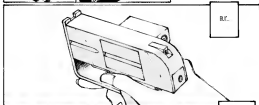


...THE
MACHINE

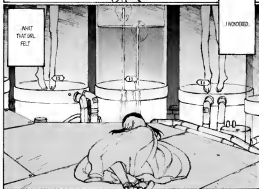
...SHEEP-
SOUND...



AND
I...



R.I...



...WAS
THAT GIRL
FELT

I WONDED...

CHAPTER 2

The
Three-Year
God



ON THE BRINK
OF DEATH.

AT THE TIME,
I WAS TEENING.



WHO LITTERED
THE STREETS OF
THIS CITY AND
WHO FOUND THEIR
PROTECTOR END
IN STARVATION

I WAS ABOUT TO
MEET THE SAME
FATE AS SO
MANY OTHER
HOMELESS
ORPHANS...

GOD DON'T
LIFT A FINGER
TO HELP ME





THEY /
SAW HIM

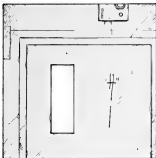




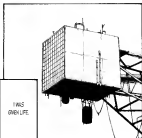
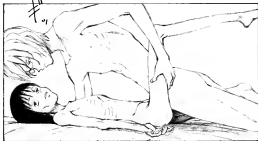


BACK THEN
THAT MAN
SAID NO LINE
GOD TO ME









I WAS
GIVEN LIFE.







I WAS SUFFERING FROM
A HORRIBLE
DISEASE.

THE MAN



I CONTRACTED
IT AS WELL.

IT WAS A
DISEASE OF
UNKNOWN
CAUSE THAT
LED TO DEATH
WITHIN THREE
YEARS.



I WAS GIVEN
LIFE FOR THREE
MORE YEARS.





WHY DID HE
CHOOSE HER?

HOW DID HE
BECOME ILL?

HE ALMOST
NEVER
TALKED



...THERE WAS
NO NEED FOR
ME TO TALK,
EITHER

HER?





THERE WERE
A LOT OF
BOOKS IN
THE MAO'S ROOM.







AS IT SEEMED
PEOPLE WERE
REGARDING ME WITH
A GREAT DEAL OF
CURIOSITY



AN INDIVIDUAL
INFECTED WITH
AN INCURABLE
CHRONIC DISEASE...

A HOMELESS
ORPHAN HAD
ENJOINED A
HEALTHY AND
LONGER LIFE.

IT WAS
UNAVOID-
ABLE.



ハハハハ

YOU
WALKING
THE-ONE
WAY??

DUMBASS!!
LOOK AT IT
OVER!!



CAN YOU
START?



WANT US TO
COME ALONG
WITH YOU WALK
YOU SHUFF?

THE FELLOWS ON
THE PARKETTES
WALKING FOR
GIVE PEOPLE
SHORT CHANGE.
YOU BETTER
WATCH OUT.

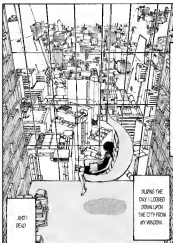








HE THEN
PASSED
AWAY



I LIVED MY
LIFE ALONE

WHATEVER KIND
OF WORK THE MAN
HAD DONE, HE LEFT
ENOUGH SAUNDS
BEHIND SO THAT I
NEVER HAD
ANY TROUBLES

AND
END

DURING THE
DAY I LOOKED
DOWN UPON
THE CITY FROM
MY WINDOW









...THAT
MAY...

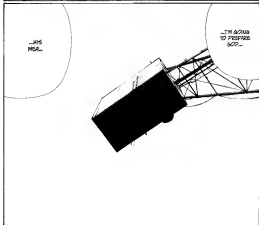
BACK THEN,
WHEN HE
STOOD
BEFORE
ME...



...GOT
TO GO.

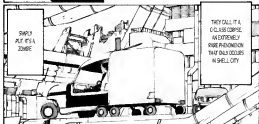
...SOMEONE
WAS...





CHAPTER 3
An Undead's Voice





WHETHER OR NOT
THAT CONSCIOUSNESS
BELONGED TO THE
DECEASED PERSON
HIMSELF IS BEYOND
MY KNOWLEDGE.



IT WAS ONLY AFTER
ARRIVING AT SHELL
CITY THAT THE
CORPSE REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS.



A D-CLASS
CORPSE RECA-
PIRES AT HIGH
TEMPERATURES
AND FREEZES AT
MINUS ONES.



THE VERY
TENDENCY OF
THE D-CLASS
CORPSES IS
KEPT SECRET
FROM THE
CITYBORN.



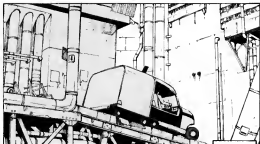
HIS (?) BODY
MUST ALREADY
HAVE STARTED
TO DECAPSUL.



IN OTHER
WORDS IT'S
THE SITUATION
WE ARE IN.

THE PROBLEM
IS WITH THE
HIGH TEM-
PERATURES.





HE HAD NO
OTHER RELA-
TIVES

BUT HE GOT
CHOICED
RIGHT AFTER
HE DRAFTING

THE MAN WHO
BECAME THE
O-CLASS CORPSE
WAS HAZZED



LOOKING LIKE
SHE CANT
DRESS HER
FURNISH





IT DOES NOT GET PICKED UP BY THE PERSONNEL SENSOR.



...NO FURTHER
INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE

STILL NO
REACTION?

ALTHOUGH SOME OF
THEM ARE FORMING
VILLAGES WITHIN
THESE LEVELS.

PEOPLE WITH
ALL SORTS OF
BAD
GROUNDS
LIVE HERE.

...MOVED.

...SOUND
THINGS...

A MOVING
OBJECT THAT
DOESN'T
TRIGGER THE
HEAT SENSOR.

IT'S THE
TARGET

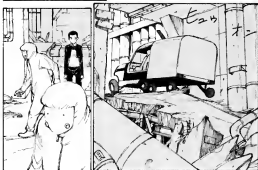




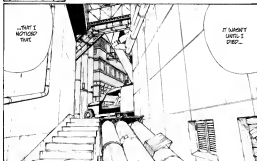


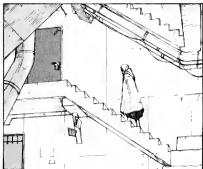
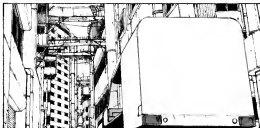


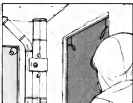














IT WAS
HAPPY?



ALL THAT
MOMENT—IT
WAS
TRAPPED
IN ALL?



HOW EASY
IT WAS TO
JUST SLAP
MYSELF
WITH
THIS FLICK!



...ABOUT
HAPPY?

IS
THIS...



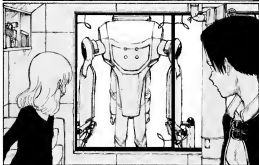
WHY AM I
INVOLVED
IN THIS?

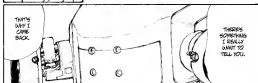
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

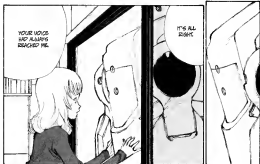
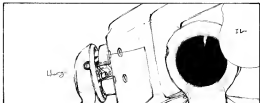


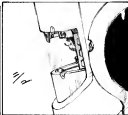






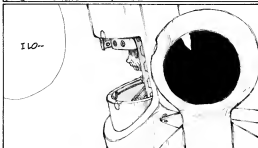








EVEN WITH
THAT, MY
FEELINGS
FOR YOU
WOON'T
CHANGE.



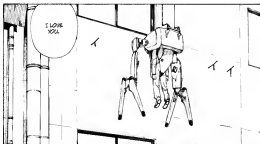
I W...





IT'S OVER.

ENOUGH



CHAPTER 4

A Love
Potion's
Taste





OUR PLACE STOP
AND THE WHOLE
BUILDING COULD
COLLAPSE
UNDER YOU.

HEY IT'S
DISASTROUS
TO GO THE
WAY!



ONE MORE THE
STORY IS THE ADDRESS
WAY LATER, MAKING
THIS TRIP IS THE FIRST
PLACE. HOW ABOUT
NOT SAYING REMAINS IT
FOR US SO MAKING A
BENEFIT... Just!

I SHOULD THE
TRUTH THE
STORY CAME
FROM A MAN
WHO WAS
CONTACT WITH
THE UNDERGROUND
PEOPLE.



IT'S NOT THIS
STORY IS A
COMPLETE
FABRICATION,
TOO.



NO
AND!

I HEARD THE
CONSTRUCTION
IN THIS AREA
WAS DONE
DIRECTLY

STOP
PEOPLE
AND COME!
WHO TOLD
YOU THAT



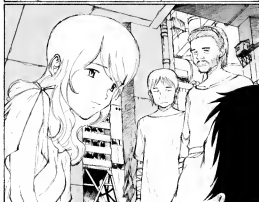
...AND THE
TRUTHFUL
MADE IN THAT
BUILDING CAN
BE... BUT
SOMEONE WHO
OBTAINED IT
FALL IN LOVE
WITH YOU.

IT SEEMS THAT IN
ROOM 809 OF THE
HOMER'S BUILDING ON
LEVEL 17, THERE'S A
BUTTERFLY...









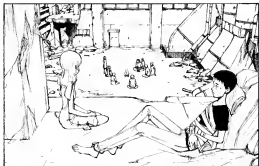


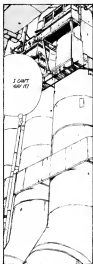




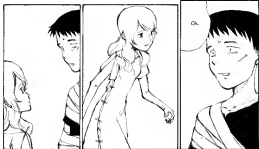
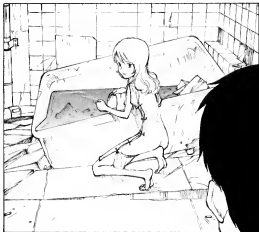


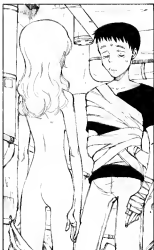


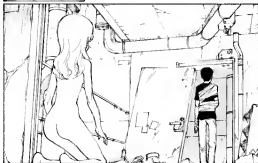


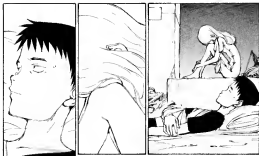
















DID YOU
SPEAK
YOUR
MIND?



WELL,
THAT'S
NOT IT.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO.

WHAT IS IT
DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE?



DID YOU
SPEAK
YOUR
MIND?

THAT
WELL...



WHAT IS IT
THAT YOU
DO?

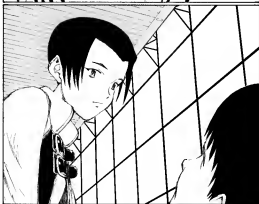


I GATHER
INFORMATION
FROM
THE LARGEST-
AROUND
PEOPLE AS
WELL.

I INSPECT
THE CIRCUM-
STANCES
FOR FACTS
IN ORDER OF
EVIDENCE.













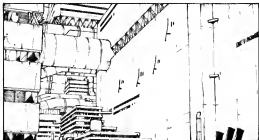


CHAPTER 5

A Zashiki- Warashi's Mark



Zashiki-warashi (座敷童) A household spirit/young girl traditionally believed to bring riches and fortune to the family whose house she or he inhabits



TODAY AGAIN
ONE CAN HEAR
THE SOUND OF
COLLAPSING
BUILDINGS



IT SEEMS
THIS SECTOR'S
COLLAPSE CAN
NO LONGER BE
STOPPED





ONCE THE REMISE
REGRADATION OF THE
LOWER LEVELS
WHOSE EXACT DATES
OF CONSTRUCTION
ARE NOT EVEN KNOWN
FOR CERTAIN,

BY DIRECTING NEW
STRUCTURES UPON
OLDONES SHELL,
CITY CONTINUES
TO GROW



HOWEVER, EVEN THE
SHELL STRUCTURE'S
STRENGTH IS DIMIN-
ISHING AT THE OLD
LOWER LEVELS



THE STABILITY OF
THE TOP LEVELS
WOULD BE SERI-
OUSLY COMPROM-
ISED WERE IT NOT
FOR THE SHELL
STRUCTURE WHOSE
SHAPE RESEMBLES
THAT OF AN
UPTURNER-GLASS



I SEARCH FOR AREAS
THAT ARE IN DANGER
OF COLLAPSING, AREAS
THAT LOOK AS IF THEY
MAY REQUIRE REPAIR,
AND REPORT THEM TO
THOSE FROM ABOVE.



MY JOB IS TO
INSPECT THE
STRUCTURE
FOR THOSE
WEAK SPOTS

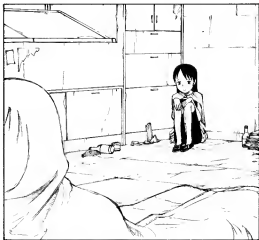
IT'S AN UNGLORIOUS
YET VITAL JOB
THAT ENSURES THE
CITY'S SAFETY.



I USE THE IGNORRED
LIVING-QUARTERS IN THE
LOWER LEVELS FOR
OVERNIGHT STAYS. SINCE
I'M FINISHED INSPECTING
A SECTOR, I MOVE ON
TO THE NEXT ONE.

MY JOB REQUIRES
THAT I CHANGE MY
SLEEPING PLACE
WITH EVERY SECTOR.













THERE'S A
SCRAMBLE
DRAWN ON THE
COLLAPSE
LOCATION.







SHE CAN
FORETELL THE
COLLAPSES

IT'S A
SUSPECT



SHE IS NOT AN
ORDINARY GIRL

NOTHING IS
KNOWN ABOUT
WHO SHE IS OR
WHERE SHE
CAME FROM

THERE IS
NO SUCH
OTTOEN IN
RECORD

I RECEIVED THE
RESULTS OF HER
IDENTITY CHECK
FROM ABOVE

SHE
NEVER
SLEEPS

SHE
NEVER
EATS



SHE IS NOT A
HUMAN BEING

I DON'T GET
THE IMPRESSION
SHE WANTS TO
HURT ME.

THAT SOUNDED
POSITIVE.
GAVE A KICK
ON YOUR

HOW CAN
YOU BE
ARRESTED
SUCH A
THING?

IN FACT, MY
WORK HAS
MADE REMARK-
ABLE PROGRESS
THANKS TO HER.



MY HOME
COLLAPSED
HARDLY
PROGRESSING
MORE EFFI-
CIENTLY.

I ASCERTAINED
THEIR CON-
TEXT AND
SUBMITTED
MY REPORT

AS FOR THOSE
LOCATIONS THAT
WERE NOT IN
IMMEDIATE
DANGER OF COL-
LAPSE, I HAD
ACTUALLY
THE CASE WITH
MOST OF THEM.

NOT ONLY DO THE
SCRAMBLES SHE DREW
REVEAL THE LOCATIONS
THEIR INDIVIDUAL SIZES
ALSO INDICATED THE TIME
LEFT UNTIL COLLAPSE.

...THERE'RE
EASAWA-
WARDEN...

YOU KNOW
IN OLD FAIRY
TALES...







HOW COULD
THIS HAPPEN?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



THIS HAS
BEEN
REPAIRED
AS WELL.

THE NEXT
LOCATION.



NO WAY...







...YOU'LL
STAY HERE.
HUNT THAT
HOW IT GET



BECAUSE
AS LONG
AS THERE
ARE
PLACES
THAT
COLLAPSE



A MISPERCEPTION
OF THE REASONS
FEELINGS TOWARDS
THEIR QUARTER



...ALL
GONE
ARE

THEY'VE



ONLY THE
QUARTER'S
LEFT





NOT BACK
QUARTER...

I WILL HAVE
GIVEN IT
FORGIVEN
ONE DAY



IN THIS CITY
IT'S BACK TO
OUR ANCESTRAL
TOWN



NO...



...OVER
HUP OVER
HAPPY...

I WANT TO TRY
OUT SOMETHING
I'VE SEEN
PEOPLE DO...



...AND
DEMOLISHED

OLD
QUARTER
WILL BE
ABANDONED



...SING OUT
THAT SILE.

WITH NEW
COMMENTS



...ARE
AWAKE IN
THAT

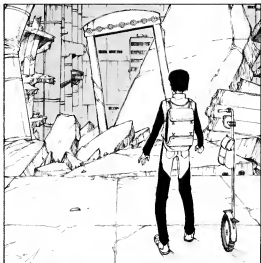
THE
QUARTERS
THAN-
SALVES









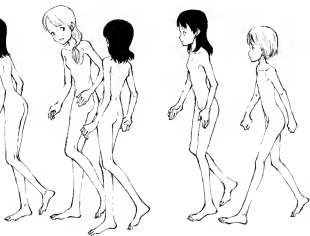






CHAPTER 6

The Creator's Cage





OH!

YES?



...HAVE BEEN
SARAPANT IN
BUTER SHELL
CITY FOR THE
PAST YEAR

MOVING
PERSON CASES
INVOLVING
YOUNG-GIRLS.

NOT
ANOTHER
OHAY!

JUST THE SORT
OF GIRLS YOU'D
EXPECT TO BE
KIDNAPED

ALL OF THE
VICTIMS WERE
FROM HEALTHY
FAMILIES

43 OF THEM

WE PRESUMED
THEY HAD BEEN
ABDUCTED

JEDDING
FROM THE
CIRCULAR
STORIES...



IT ALWAYS TO
ADMIT IT BUT
WE HAD NO
CLUE WHERE
TO EVEN START



HOWEVER THERE
WAS NO CONTACT
FROM THE GROUP
FOR NO REASON
NOTE WAS NO
WORD FROM THE
GIRLS EITHER



THAT PHRASE
TOOK THE BLAME
OFF US BUT AT
THE SAME TIME
IT WAS THE
ULTIMATE INSULT

PEOPLE
EVEN SAID...

THE GIRLS
HAD BEEN
"SPIRITED
AWAY"

WE ALL
EXPECTED
THE WORST,
FOUGHTEN BY
THE THOUGHT
OF FALLING AT
OUR PITY





JUST THEN A MAN
CAME TO US



'HELP ME
PLEASE'



TO ME, THEY
DON'T EVEN
SOUND LIKE
WORDS.



HE FORCED THE WORDS
OUT WITH A GRIAN.
BUT MY FATHER
UNDERSTOOD HIM.



NOTH' REAL.



I COULDN'T EVEN GET
THROUGH TO HIM TO
BEGIN WITH.

IT WAS LIKE HE
DON'T EVEN SEEM TO
KNOW I EXISTED.

"ARE KILLING
EACH OTHER"



THE CHARACTERS
IN MY GAME.





HE TOOK A ROUTE
EVEN THE ADMIN-
ISTRATION HAD NO
IDEA ABOUT

HIS CAR WENT
DEEP INTO THE
ANCIENT LOWER
LEVELS



WHAT THE
HELL IS
THIS?

AAAA...

THIS UNDER-
LEVEL...

THE SCENE THAT
SPREAD OUT
BEFORE US...



IT LOOKED A
LITTLE LESS
THAN 3
METERS DEEP

IT WAS A
HIGHLY
UNUSUAL
STRUCTURE

IT WAS ABOUT 3
STORES TALL,
FORMING A SHALLOW
ARC, ROUGHLY 100
METERS WIDE



EACH ROOM WAS
SET UP SO YOU
COULD SEE EVERY
CORNER FROM
OUTSIDE WITH NO
BLIND SPOTS



THE FRONT WAS
COVERED IN GLASS SO
THAT YOU COULD SEE
EVERYTHING INSIDE.



AND INSIDE IT WAS
SOMETHING EVEN
MORE UNBELIEVABLE



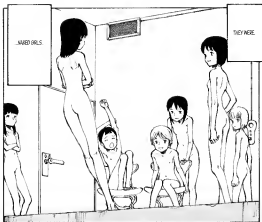
IT WAS A
STRUCTURE
BUILT FOR
PRECISE FOR
EXTERNAL
OBSERVATION.



HOWEVER, IT
APPEARED THAT
THOSE INSIDE
COULDN'T SEE
OUTSIDE



THE PEOPLE.



THEY WERE
LIVING THERE
TRAPPED IN
THAT BUILDING



I WAS JUST
HOPING TO
DELIVER
FOOD HERE
THREE TIMES
A DAY...



THEY HAD FOOD AND
JUST ENOUGH OF
EVERYTHING ELSE THEY
NEEDED TO SURVIVE.

THEY EVEN HAD
A SMALL BUT
PERFECTLY USABLE
BALL COURT



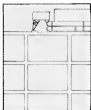
NOT ONLY
THAT BUT
THEY ALSO
HAD A
PLAYROOM

...THEY COULD
LIVE VERY COMFY
LIVES IN THERE

...AND THE FACT
THAT THEY
COULDN'T LEAVE
EVEN IF THEY
WANTED TO.



IN SHORT
WANT FROM
THE FACT
THAT THEY
WERE NAKED.



THE COMPUTER
GAME THE MAN
DEVELOPED...



...FEATURED
VIRTUAL
RESIDENTS.
LIVING IN AN
APARTMENT
WITH A PAR-
TICULAR SETUP.



ESSENTIALLY THE
GAME BOILED DOWN TO
THE PLAYER JUST
WATCHING THE BEST
DEBTS ON THE MONITOR

THE ONLY THING
THE PLAYER COULD
DO WAS SET UP
NEW CHARACTERS
WITH CERTAIN
STATS AND PUT
THEM IN THE GAME

APART FROM
THAT HE
COULDN'T
INTERVIEW IN
ANY WAY

CAN YOU
EVERY CALL
THAT A
GAME?





THE
PLAYER
HARD BODY

ALMOST
LEVEL

IT WAS A KIND OF
SIMULATION



WITH THE MONEY
HE MADE OFF THAT
GAME, HE BUILT
THIS STRUCTURE



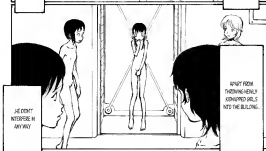
THE
WORLD HE
FORGOT

AND PEOPLE
ACTUALLY
LIVED THIS
GAME



...TO LIFE

HE BROUGHT
HIS OWN
GAME



HE DIDN'T
INTERFERE IN
ANYWAY

UPST FROM
THROWING HEAVILY
KIDNAPPED GIRLS
INTO THE BUILDING

MORE THAN
HALF OF THEM
WERE GIRLS
WHO HADN'T
GONE MISSING



WE FOUND A
LIST OF GIRLS
NAMES IN HIS
APARTMENT



BASED ON THAT
HE DECIDED
WHICH GIRLS
TO KIDNAP



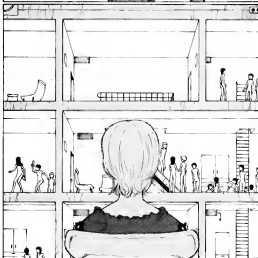
FIRST HE DREW UP A
DETAILED PROFILE,
STUDYING HOW THEY
BEHAVED IN A GROUP
SETTING AND EVEN
WROTE UP SIMPLE
CHARACTER ANALYSES

HOW DID HE
GET THEM?

...JUST STARED
AT THE GIRLS IN
THE BUILDING.



THEN HE SPENT
ALL HIS DAYS...





THAT'S
WHAT HE
SAID



"TO STAVE OFF
BOREDOM."

WANT MORE
FOOD?"



PERHAP I
WOULDN'T
TALK TO
HIM ANY
MORE.

YOU GUYS
HAVE A LOT
IN COMMON,
HUN?

YOU'RE
GETTING
ALONG
GREAT
WITH HIM.



ACCORDING TO HIM,
EVERYTHING WENT
WELL AT FIRST



WHY DID
YOU TURN
YOURSELF
OUT?

...EVEN BY
GIVING UP ON
REBELLING

AFTER
THAT THEY
ADJUSTED TO
THE SITUATION

THE ABDUCTED
GIRLS WOULD
USUALLY SPEND
THE FIRST WEEK
CRYING



BUT THOSE
WORRIES PAID
THE LONGER
THEIR PEACEFUL
LIVES CONTINUED

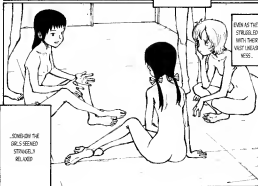
OF COURSE THEY
ALSO HAD BEEN
UNEASY NOT KNOWING
WHERE THEY WERE
BEING LOCKED UP

AFTER ALL,
EXCEPT FOR
CLOTHES THEY
HAD NOTHING
THEY NEEDED
TO LIVE ON



EVEN AS THEY
STRUGGLED
WITH THEIR
VERY LITTLE
NESS...

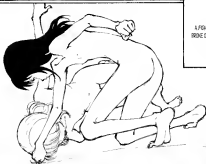
...SOMEHOW THE
GIRLS SEEMED
STRANGELY
RELAXED



SOMETHING
HAPPENED

UNTIL

A FIGHT
BROKE OUT.



ACTUALLY, THESE
MAY HAVE BEEN
MORE GROUPS.

THE GIRLS
BROKE INTO
TWO GROUPS.

HE HAD NO
IDEA WHAT
STARTED IT.

AND A FIGHT
BROKE.

AT FIRST .

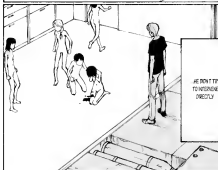




THE MAN
LEFT THEM
ALONE.

BUT EVENTUALLY
THE SITUATION LED
TO BLOODSHIP

HE COULDN'T
SHAKE IT ANY
LONGER



HOWEVER...

HE DON'T TRY
TO INTERFERE
DIRECTLY



THAT WAS
ALL.

HE TO
CAME TO US
FOR HELP

ETHER TO
ABANDON THE
STRUCTURE.

HE HAD TWO
CHOICES



PERHAPS HE
COULDN'T
INTERVIEW?

WHY DON'T
HE TRY TO
INTERVIEW?

I DON'T
GET IT

EVEN THOUGH
HE KNEW HE
WOULD LOSE
HIS PURPOSE

HE CHOSE TO TURN
HIMSELF IN TO US



ONE MORE
ACCOMPLISHMENT
IT SOLVED
ITSELF

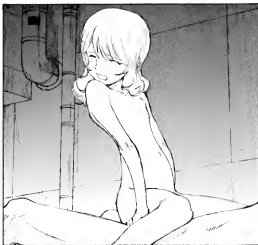
WELL, MAYBE
HE SOLVED
THE CASE.



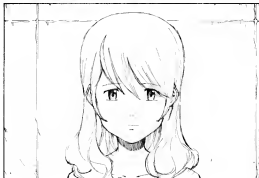
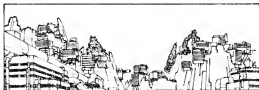


CHAPTER 7
A Bibliovore's love











HE WAS SO SUR-
PRISED WHEN SHE
SUDDENLY STARTED
READING BOOKS THAT
HE BROUGHT HER TO
THE ADMINISTRATION

SCARY OR...
KINDA...

YOUR
KAMOMA
HERE?

THE MAN HAD
BOUGHT THE GIRL
TO USE AS A
LIVE DOLL.

THEY ARE SAID
TO BE ABLE TO
RELATE ABOUT ONE
MILLION BOOKS

BOOKLOVERS
ARE LIVING
LIBRARIES
CREATED AS
PLAYTHINGS
FOR THE RICH

SHE WAS
WHAT IS
BORN AS A
BOOKLOVER?

THIS WAS THE
FIRST TIME TO
EVER SEE ONE

CAN SHE
TRUST?

I HEAR FANS LIKE
TO HOLD BECITAL
CONTESTS
AMONG THEM

NATURALLY, THE
MOST ELOQUENT
ONES ARE TRADED AT
INCREDIBLE PRICES

WERE BOOKS
BANNED IN
THIS CITY

THE PROBLEM
WAS THAT THE
BOOKS THIS GIRL
RECEIVED...

SHE HAD SO
MANY BOOKS
ALONGSIDE
THAT THERE
WAS NO WAY
TO CHECK.

WE HAD NO IDEA
HOW MANY BANNED
BOOKS WERE
STORED IN HER

WE HAD NO CLUE
WHERE SHE WAS
CREATED OR HOW
SHE GOT UP HERE

WE COULD
TELL SHE WAS
A CLONE OF AN
UNDERGROUND
BAND LEADER.

AS FOR
WHAT TO DO
WITH HER



IN OTHER
WORDS...

THEY'RE
GOING TO
ASSASSINATE
HER!



"BURNING
THE
BOOKS?"



IT WAS HER VERY
EXISTENCE THAT
COULD NOT BE
ALLOWED TO
CONTINUE.

BECAUSE IT WAS
STILL POSSIBLE
THAT SHE COULD
WRITE THE WORDS
OUT ONE DAY.



WOULDN'T BE
ENOUGH TO
SOLVE THE
PROBLEM.

WOULD
REMOVING
HER VOCAL
CORDS

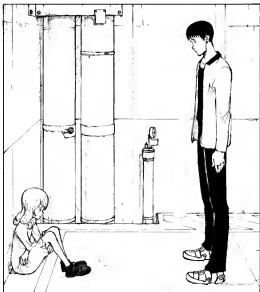


WORDS STILL
IDENTIFY
WHAT TO
DO WITH
WORDS.



WE HAVEN'T
DECIDED
HOW TO DEAL
WITH YOU.

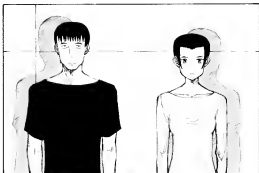


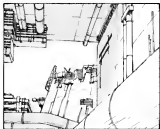
















AND
SO...

AND PUT THE
NEWLY ACQUIRED BOOKS IN
THEIR PLACE

THAT WOULD SEND THE
FEW BOOKS SHE COULD
RECALL BACKALL TO THE
BOTTOM OF HER MEMORY...



...ALL THE BOOKS
CURRENTLY STORED
IN HERE, DAMAGED AND
DISAPPEARED, WILL BE
DELETED FROM HER
LIBRARY.

...IF YOU CAN FILL
HER MEMORY
WITH NEW BOOKS
TO CAPACITY...



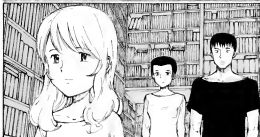
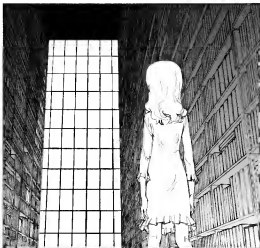
ONE
MILLION
BOOKS?

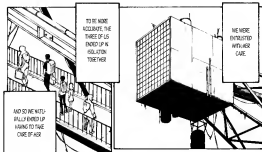


THAT'S
ABOUT...



PROBABLY.





TO BE MORE
ACCURATE, THE
THREE OF US
ENDED UP IN
ISOLATION
TOGETHER

WE WERE
ENTRUSTED
WITH HER
CARE.

AND SO WE WERE
BALLY ENDED UP
HAVING TO TAKE
CARE OF HER



A TRULY
ENDLESS
LIBRARY

WHAT KIND
OF BOOKS
WOULD SHE
PICK? HER
IMAGINATION?

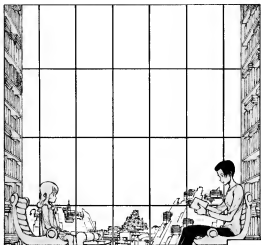
FIRST
OFF...

FORTUNATELY
FOR US THERE
WERE PLENTY
OF BOOKS
THERE



BETTER NOT
TEACH HER
ANYTHING
TODAY, HANAKO

LOVE
STORIES.



...THAT
STILL

THE OLD CITY IS
BEING BURIED
UNDERNEATH

JUST
LATER



SENDING ALL HER
OLD MEMORIES
TO THE BOTTOM



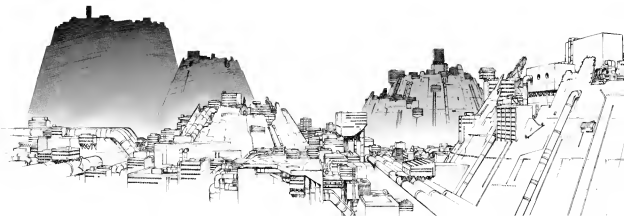
OVERWITING
OVERWITING



DO SHE
JUST
SMILE?









...THAT CITY
DEDICATED
ITSELF
SOLELY TO
BUILDING
ITSELF UP.

FOR AN
UNKNOWN
PURPOSE...
AND AN
UNCLEAR
REASON...

A CITY THAT
RECKLESSLY
BUILT ITSELF
UP HIGHER
AND HIGHER.



THE REMAINS OF
THE DREAMS OF
THAT CITY...



I'M GOING
TO TELL
YOU MORE...

...ABOUT A
CITY THAT
ONCE
EXISTED.

A CITY WHOSE
VERY EXISTENCE
WAS NOW BEING
FORGOTTEN.

THE TALE OF A MAN
WHO COULD ONLY
TELL HIS WIFE
WHAT HE WANTED
HER TO KNOW
AFTER HIS DEATH.

THE TALE OF A GIRL
GRATEFUL TO A MAN
WHO SAVED HER
LIFE, EVEN IF IT WAS
ONLY FOR THREE
MORE YEARS.

THE TALE OF A MAN
SO OBSESSED
WITH HIS WIFE HE
TRIED TO POSSESS
EVEN HER FACE.

THE TALE OF A
BOY WHOSE
SEARCH FOR A
LOVE POTION LED
HIM TO DOUBT HIS
TRUE FEELINGS.

THE TALE OF A
MAN WHO LOVED
SOMETHING
HUMAN.

THE TALE OF A MAN
WHO WAS ONLY
INTERESTED IN
GIRLS HE COULD
NOT TOUCH.



THIS...

...IS THEIR
STORY.

END

Female administrator

Afterword & Extras

This was originally planned to be just a one-shot, so I didn't get too much thought into designing the characters.

When I drew the seasonal story ("The Three-Year God"), I thought "why not use this character again?", and before I knew it, I had used her for two whole years.

They sent me a copy of Shueisha # vol. 35, the issue "The Three-Year God" was published in.

I never thought I'd get the chance to draw her in color.

"Wow! They're calling it a 'series'!"



"That's the first time I heard that it was going to be serialized."

"They even gave the series a name: 'The 'Three-Year God' story'."



Male administrator

Maybe this hairstyle would have worked too, since it contrasts his laser personality.



The vehicle the administrators use I just scribbled something for the rough draft, so when I try to imagine it in 3D it looks extremely odd. This happens to me a lot.

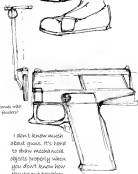
It's a real headache trying to incorporate a world that's designed into a half-assed world. I put up with it no matter what I try.



A one-wheeled Segway/Quicker

It's built to be laterally stable so it should be safe enough.

Probably has runways built into the wheels and stuff like that.



I don't know much about guns. It's hard to draw mechanical objects properly when you don't know how they're put together.